GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1562
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
ESTABLISHMENT OF RPOS PASSPORT OFFICES .
RADHA MOHAN SINGH;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of district headquarters where Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices have been opened during the last six months;

(b) whether any time-frame has been set for opening regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices in all the district headquarters of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) No Regional Passport Office/Passport Office has been opened in any of the district Headquarters during the last 6 months.

(b&c) The Government has decided to decentralize the passport services and to bring these services closer to the people. Under this scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells(DPCs).The forms will be scrutinized and documents checked by the DPCs and then forwarded to the Passport Office who will issue the passports.

This scheme has already been launched in the State of Sikkim, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Goa, Kerala, Bihar, Assam and Andhra Pradesh. The scheme has been fully launched with effect from Febraury 1, 2002, except states like UP wherethe scheme would be launched from April 1, 2002.